
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 967

AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR A REVOLVER.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires that an applicant be notified that his or her application for a temporary state gun permit is approved or denied no later than eight weeks after submitting documents specified in the bill, instead of after a “sufficient application. . .has been made” (see BACKGROUND).

The documents are:

1. a completed and notarized Department of Public Safety (DPS) application form, which cannot be modified or supplemented with additional forms;
2. two sets of fingerprints processed in accordance with the law governing the collection of fingerprints for gun permit applications;
3. a certificate of successful completion of a handgun safety and use course, signed by an instructor certified by the National Rifle Association, the Department of Environmental Protection, a law enforcement agency, or a branch of the U.S. military service; and
4. for U.S. citizens, a birth certificate, naturalization certificate, or valid U.S. passport, and for aliens, a permanent resident card.

Because aliens not permanently in the United States do not have a permanent resident card, the requirement to submit such a card as part of the permit application would appear to disqualify them from getting a gun permit. By law, a legal alien is eligible for a gun permit,

but an illegal alien is not (CGS § 29-28).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

BACKGROUND

Gun Permit Applications

With minor exceptions, state law bars anyone from carrying handguns (except antique handguns) anywhere in Connecticut without a gun permit. For Connecticut residents, getting an original gun permit is a two-step process. They must first apply to the local permit-issuing official (usually the police chief), who issues a temporary, 60-day state permit. The official forwards the application to the DPS commissioner, who issues a five-year state permit. Out-of-state residents apply directly to the commissioner.

Ordinarily, the local official has eight weeks after an applicant submits a sufficient application to approve or deny the temporary permit, but the law does not define what constitutes a “sufficient application.” The commissioner has eight weeks after receiving the information from the local official to approve or deny the five-year state permit. The deadlines may be extended if the officials do not receive the required FBI criminal history record report on an applicant.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 23 Nay 1 (03/08/2011)

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/23/2011)